



News Release

Maryland National Guard



Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Major General Bruce F. Tuxill
The Adjutant General

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Maj. Charles Kohler, Public Affairs Officer
Phone: 443-250-7242
e-mail: charles.kohler@md.ngb.army.mil

Date: August 26, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Statement on the BRAC Vote Attributable to Major General Bruce F. Tuxill, the Adjutant General of Maryland

"Today's vote by the BRAC Commission to accept the Department of Defense's recommendation to realign the Maryland Air National Guard's 135th Airlift Group is very disappointing. During the brief time that has elapsed since the Department of Defense made its recommendations known to the BRAC Commission, the Maryland Air National Guard has been engaged in an aggressive effort to demonstrate in no uncertain terms the value of the 135th Airlift Group - not only to the warfighter, but to homeland security, particularly here in the National Capital Region.

Throughout the unit's history, but in particular the past several months, the men and women of the 135th Airlift Group have performed magnificently. They've not only written the book on how to operate the Air Force's newest airlifter, the C-130J, but they've been among the first to take it into actual combat. They have proved its capability, and no doubt in the process, saved the lives of soldiers and Marines by airlifting supplies and equipment into Baghdad, relieving much of the requirement for truck convoys, one of the main targets of insurgents.

While the Commission's vote is a setback, it is by no means the end of the process. As the process moves forward in the weeks to come, we will continue to press the case in the strongest way possible for retaining the 135th Airlift Group."

###